

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00932 231924Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----003220 240434Z /23

R 231357Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5314  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0932

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, UR, NO  
SUBJECT: EVENSEN VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 044472

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON FEB 17 MVENSEN  
CONVERSATION CONTAINED REFTEL. WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON  
SOME OF THE POINTS EVENSEN MADE.

2. EVENSEN'S DESCRIPTION OF (PARA 2) "URGENT" NEED TO PROTECT  
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FISHERY STOCKS IS NOT ENTIRELY SUPPORTED BY FISHERIES EXPERTS  
HERE. LOCAL EXPERTS SEE A NEED FOR PROTECTION BUT SOME HAVE  
QUESTIONED THE URGENCY OF SUCH NEED, POINTING OUT THAT THE  
FISHERIES AROUND SVALBARD COULD PROBABLY BE UNREGULATED FOR AT  
LEAST ANOTHER SEASON WITHOUT DOING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE  
FISH STOCK THERE. TO SOME DEGREE, EVENSEN'S DESCRIPTION  
OF THE URGENCY REPRESENTS ANOTHER OF THE SELF-IMPOSED DEAD-

LINES WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED HIS PREVIOUS DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED ANEW WITH EVENSEN'S OPTIMISTIC ASSUMPTION THAT A DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN FISHERIES JURISDICTIONS AND SHELF DELIMITATION (PARA 4). THIS IS PRECISELY THE PLOY THE SOVIETS USED WITH EVENSEN DURING THE RECENT ISHKOV VISIT (OSLO 206). IT ALSO, OF COURSE, RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW "GREY ZONES" WITH THE ATTENDANT RISK OF LONG-TERM PRACTICES ESTABLISHING DE FACTO BOUNDARIES.

4. EVENSEN'S RAISING OF THE PROSPECT OF USSR USE OF ARMED NAVAL VESSELS (PARA 11) STRIKES US AS EXAGGERATION. IT REMINDS US OF THE ARGUMENTATION HE USED IN PUSHING THE "GREY ZONE" CONCEPT LAST YEAR.

5. WE ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT EVENSEN'S CLAIM THAT THE SOVIETS CAME TO ACCEPT THE NORWEGIAN 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AS A RESULT OF PERSISTENT NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATION. THIS PROBABLY OVER-VALUES NORWAY'S ROLE IN THE SOVIET DECISION, WHICH WE EXPECT WAS DUE MORE TO SOVIET SELF-INTEREST AND A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF GROWING WORLD PRACTICE. EVENSEN'S INTERPRETATION IS THUS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SINCE IT APPEARS TO OVERESTIMATE BOTH THE IMPACT OF NORWAY'S UNILATERAL EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS AND THE SOVIETS' WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE NORWEGIAN VIEWS. EVENSEN'S VIEW, WE BELIEVE, REFLECTS A VULNERABILITY ON HIS PART TO SOVIET-  
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NORWEGIAN BILATERALISM.

6. THE POSSIBLE PROVISION (PARA 3) FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF LONG-LINE FISHING FOR NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN COULD, WE BELIEVE, CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH THOSE OF OUR ALLIES WHO FISH IN THE AREA, SINCE THEY MAY NOT PERCEIVE SUCH A REGIME AS NONDISCRIMINATORY.

7. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE WOULD, SUBSEQUENT TO BRIEFING FONMIN, ALSO BRIEF UK, FRG AND FRENCH EMBASSIES HERE ON EVENSEN'S WASHINGTON TALKS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHERIES, MEETING REPORTS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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